

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 04847 201350Z
ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 4847

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, US, JO
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

REF: (A) 76 STATE 37591; (B) 76 AMMAN 1100; (C) 76 AMMAN 0710;
(D) STATE 159747; (E) STATE 191998

1. FOLLOWING AMENDS PARA 2 OF AMMAN'S REPLY, REF B,
TO REF A.

2. IN JULY, 1976, DR. HAZEM ZAKI NUSEIBEH REPLACED
'ABD AL-HAMID SHARAF AS JORDAN'S PERM REP TO UN.
(SHARAF RETURNED TO AMMAN TO ASSUME POSITION OF
CHIEF OF ROYAL COURT.) NUSEIBEH, A PALESTINIAN FROM
AN OLD AND RESPECTED JERUSALEM FAMILY, IS EXPERIENCED
DIPLOMAT AND HIGHLY REGARDED INTELLECTUAL WHO DISPLAYS
RATIONAL VIEW TOWARD ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM. HE IS
U.S.-EDUCATED, FRIENDLY TO AMERICANS, AND WILL
WILLINGLY COORDINATE WITH USUN AS APPROPRIATE. WHILE
HE HAS SOMEWHAT LESS DIRECT ACCESS TO KING HUSSEIN THAN DID
SHARAF, NUSEIBEH'S GREATER AGE AND WIDER
EXPERIENCE COULD MAKE HIM MORE EFFECTIVE
SPOKESMAN FOR JORDANIAN INTERESTS AT UN THAN
WAS SHARAF, AS WELL AS BETTER-EQUIPPING HIM
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TO EVALUATE ISSUES FROM MULTILATERAL POINT OF
VIEW. HE WAS POINTEDLY BROUGHT IN BY KING TO
RECENT TALKS WITH SECRETARY VANCE. NUSEIBEH IS
MORE INCLINED TO ADHERE TO EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS
THAN WAS SHARAF, A CIRCUMSTANCE WHICH INCREASES
IMPORTANCE OF OUR EFFORTS HERE TO SEE THAT GOJ
PROPERLY UNDERSTANDS WHAT IS INVOLVED IN

MULTILATERAL ISSUES.

3. SHARAF, AS CHIEF OF ROYAL COURT, IS NOW
KING'S MOST INFLUENTIAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISOR.
HIS PRIOR UN EXPERIENCE PROVIDES IDEAL VANTAGE
POINT FROM WHICH TO FORMULATE JORDANIAN STANCE
ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES. JORDAN WILL CONTINUE
ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES TO BE GUIDED BY ITS PERCEPTION
OF WHAT THE ARAB CONSENSUS IS ON ANY PARTICULAR
POINT. JORDAN, FOR INTER-ARAB REASONS, WILL NOT
VENTURE OUT ALONE. IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES, WHERE
ARAB VIEWS ARE SPLIT, HIGH LEVEL APPEALS
FROM THE SECRETARY TO SHARAF AND THE PRESIDENT TO
KING HUSSEIN MIGHT ALTER THEIR POSITION, BUT THERE
IS NO CERTAINTY OF THIS HAPPENING.

4. EMBASSY'S MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS OFFICER IS
POLITICAL SECTION CHIEF DEFORD.
PICKERING

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